anybody will oppose it. If the House so agrees, we can get it passed without discussion.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: As far as Safai Karamcharis (Amendment) Bill is concerned, it can be passed without debate. If it is supported, there is no problem.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karanataka): Agarwal ....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hanumanthappa do you want to speak?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: 1 am not opposing it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hanumanthappa is the Chairman of SC-ST Commission. One or two points he can give which may be of some use and guidance to the Minister. But please keep in mind that we do not have time. Mr. Minister, please move the motion. You may not make a speech.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We all would like to speak in that case. Madam, we want that you should speak on our behalf.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not speaking. I want to support this Bill. That is all. Hanumanthappaji, if you have any good suggestion, will you please send it to the Minister?

Anyway, Mr. Minister, just move it first. *(Interruptions)* He is moving it. *(Interruptions)* I said, you move the Bill. Of course, I will be happy if you come to the front bench. In any case, you are a front-bencher. *(Interruptions)* I think I should be happy that at the fag end of the day we still have our sense of humour. We are not looking really tired or angry.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): Madam, I move:

That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, be taken into consideration.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall not take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Madam, I move: That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, my suggestion is that Hanumanthappaji should send his suggestions, if any, to the Minister.

There is a statement to be made by Shri T.R. Baalu, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. This is regarding New Exploration Licensing Policy. And I have the names of three Members who want to seek clarifications. *(Interruptions) One second, please. There is also a Statutory Resolution regarding Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997, which is to be moved by Satish Agarwalji and other, but let me first find out. Are you going to have a discussion on this? ...(Interruptions)*

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, this is an ordinance. *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam we are not ready to have discussion today. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karanataka): Madam, what is this? Everybody requested me not to speak and that the Bill should be passed. And now they want to speak! *(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Not on this, Madam. This is another thing.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : No. This Bill may be important for you but the other one was important for me. The whole House had requested me not to speak and allow that to be passed without discussion. Madam, you directed me... *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody should sit down. Let me hear what Hanumanthappaji is saying. Yes, Hanumanthappaji, please speak.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, my point is that when the Bill on the Safai Karamcharis came, the opinion of the whole House was that the Bill should be passed without any discussion. You also directed me not to speak. I thought that this Bill would also go along with that without any discussion. Now, if we want to have discussion on this, then we could have discussed that also. A lot of suggestions could have been given to the Ministry and the Government and they could have considered those suggestions.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I agree.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA ; If the opinion of the House is to pass the legislative business without any discussion, I follow suit. But after having passed that Bill without any discussion, if we start discussion on this Bill, I do not agree to that. So, we shall not...*(Interruptions)* That is all I want to say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would suggest one thing. It is already very late, although I don't mind sitting late also. But the thing is that it is being opposed by Agarwalji and others and there are also some other Members who want to make a few points. So, my suggestion would be, if the Members so agree, they should put their points without making long speeches, give a few suggestions and we would request the Minister to imcor-porate those points. Of course, I have my own apprehension as to how Ite will do it because this is an Ordinance.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, please discuss it tomorrow. We are not ready today. We assigned this job to somebody else. It is already 7 o'clock, the person who had been assigned this duty by our party is not here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not our responsibility.

DR. BIBLAB DASGUPTA: I know, Madam, But it is already 7 o'clock.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, we should keep in view one point. What we decided in the Business Advisory Committee on that day was that we will transact some of the Legislative business without discussion. That was also recorded. If the Member want to have a discussion, then I have no problem. But, what I will request is that tomorrow we should keep for U.P. because I understand both from the BJP and the other side, a lot of issues will be coming up. We have to pass four items —the Proclamation, the Budget, the Supplementary Demands and the Excess Demands for U.P. Therefore, it will take time. My suggestion is, if the Members want to speak on this Bill they should speak, but this piece of legislation should be over today. After that, the Minister can make the statement. We had decided that the Minister's statement will come at the fag-end of the business.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He can lay it on the table of the House.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: He can lay it on the Table of the House, but some Members would like to seek clarifications. So, my suggestion to you would be, let us take the Legislative business

first. After that, take the Minister's statement and clarifications—whether it will be laid on the Table or not, that you decide—but the Legislative Business should be cleared so that tomorrow after the Finance Minister's reply to the Budget —he will take at least one or one-and-a-half hours—thereafter, whatever time will be left should be devoted for U.P.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We also have to clear a lot of Ordinances.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is also an Ordinance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is an Ordinance, and there are some other Ordinances also. We have to clear an item of Legislative Business which is connected with the Ministry of Environment. We have a total of seven Ordinances, out of which only one we have cleared today. So, six Ordinances, one item of Legislative business, U.P. and some other discussions are there.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: And we are having only two days.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't know how we are going to finish it. You want to have a discussion on it. I have only two names of Shri Md. Salim and Shri John F. Fernandes on the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997. Shri Md. Salim is not here. Shri Satish Agarwal's name is also there. अग्रवाल जी आप आपोज कर रहे हैं? क्यों कर रहे हैं।

SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES: Madam, I want to speak on the Bill. I will just raise some queries.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is opposing and let him withdraw his opposition to it. I am requesting Mr. Agarwal to withdraw his opposition.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Without moving the motion?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you can move the motion.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: After all, I have to move the Motion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You move the motion and withdraw it.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION, SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF THE PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1997 AND THE PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

SHRIJSATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): NJfcdam, I will raise only one query and let the Minister reply to that; then I will withdraw my resolution. Madam Deputy-Chairperson, I move:

> That this House disapproves of the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 1 of 1997) promulgated by the President on the 9th January, 1997.

Madam, I have a lot of material to speak on this, but I won't go by that because all the Members wished me not to do so. I would like to know from the hon. Minister only one thing. Clause 31(2) of the Bill states:

> "Notwithstanding such repel, anything done by any action taken under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of those Acts, as amended by this Act."

Madaln, this ordinance was promulgated on* 9th January, 1997. A Cabinet decision was taken on 10th of October, 1996 in this behalf. Why did you not bring a piece of legislation in the Winter Session of Parliament? That is number one. Number two, even condoning that, what have you done or have you set up an independent tariff authority for which this Ordinance was issued on 9th of January by exercising the extraordinary powers of the hon. President under article 123? If you were so keen to implement the decision of the Cabinet dated 10th October, 1996 so as to promulgate